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SENATE BILL 1112

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

William E. Sharer

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CREATING A THREE-YEAR PILOT PROJECT TO
PRODUCE AND MARKET DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES DEVELOPED BY NEW
MEXICO MATHEMATICIANS AND SCIENTISTS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE DISTANCE LEARNING
PILOT PROJECT--CREATED--PURPOSE--REQUIREMENTS--REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURES--REPORTING AND EVALUATION.--

A. The public education department, in partnership
with one or both of the national laboratories located in New
Mexico, shall establish a three-year mathematics and science
distance learning pilot project that:

(1) provides for the production and marketing
of distance learning mathematics and science courses developed
by mathematicians and scientists who are experts in their

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1 fields; and

2 (2) evaluates the educational and fiscal
3 benefits to New Mexico.

4 B. The purpose of the pilot project is to:

5 (1) demonstrate effective ways to partner
6 with the national laboratories, particularly in educational
7 endeavors;

8 (2) benefit from the expertise of current and
9 retired mathematicians and scientists at the national
10 laboratories;

11 (3) provide better access to mathematics and
12 science classes in school districts that have trouble
13 attracting and retaining mathematics and science teachers; and

14 (4) raise money for public school purposes.

15 C. The goal of the pilot project is to develop and
16 market at least four mathematics and four science courses to
17 at least ten schools around the country.

18 D. The public education department shall enter
19 into an agreement with one or both of the national
20 laboratories in New Mexico to recruit, equip and train
21 mathematicians and scientists to offer middle, junior and high
22 school mathematics and science distance learning courses that
23 meet state academic content and performance standards and
24 market those courses to schools around the country. The pilot
25 project may also offer specialty courses for which the state

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1 does not have academic content and performance standards if
2 those courses are academically rigorous and focus on a
3 particular area of mathematic or scientific inquiry.

4 E. Each teaching candidate shall prepare a
5 syllabus of the distance learning course the candidate
6 proposes to teach and provide a sample of one class in the
7 course in the audiovisual medium required by the public
8 education department. The public education department, in
9 conjunction with the national laboratory, shall convene a
10 group of educators, students and mathematicians or scientists,
11 as appropriate, to evaluate the candidate's performance in
12 regards to course content and ability to engage students in
13 the subject. The public education department and the national
14 laboratory shall select the participants for the pilot
15 project.

16 F. Each participant shall contract for at least
17 one semester of distance learning classes in the participant's
18 selected course. The contract shall specify the amount the
19 participant is paid per course or per site. If the
20 participant's distance learning course is sold to three or
21 more schools, the participant shall agree to include at least
22 one New Mexico public school in the course offering for free.
23 The public education department shall select a public school
24 for the free course from those in the state that have not been
25 able to offer the course taught by the participant because of

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1 inability to attract and retain qualified mathematics or
2 science teachers.

3 G. The participating national laboratories shall
4 market the distance learning courses around the country. The
5 public education department shall serve as the fiscal
6 administrator of the pilot project and shall account for all
7 revenue and expenditures pertaining to the pilot project.
8 After the pilot project has repaid the general fund for the
9 seed money provided to begin the pilot project, the remainder
10 of the proceeds shall be deposited into a separate account in
11 the educational technology fund and shall be subject to
12 appropriation by the legislature to improve educational
13 technology in public schools.

14 H. The public education department and the
15 participating national laboratories shall establish reporting
16 and evaluation requirements for participating schools,
17 including student, course and project assessments. The
18 departments shall provide interim and final reports to the
19 legislature and the governor on the efficacy of the pilot
20 project.

21 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Two hundred thousand dollars
22 (\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public
23 education department for expenditure in fiscal years 2007
24 through 2010 to conduct the mathematics and science distance
25 learning pilot project. Any unexpended or unencumbered

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1 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert
2 to the general fund.

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